



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Origins of Genus *Homo*  
Friday, February 5, 2016  
carta.anthropogeny.org



**Bernard Wood** is a Professor of Human Origins and Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology at George Washington University. In 1968, he joined Richard Leakey's first exploration and excavations at Lake Turkana, Kenya, and has done research in paleoanthropology ever since. He is the author or co-author of 12 books, edits the Wiley-Blackwell *Encyclopedia of Human Evolution* and is the author of many refereed scientific articles and book chapters. His research interests are taxonomy, phylogeny reconstruction and comparative morphology. He is an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.



**William H. Kimbel** received his Ph.D. from Kent State University. He is the Director of the Institute of Human Origins (IHO) and Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Natural History and the Environment in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. For more than 25 years, Kimbel has conducted research on *Australopithecus* and early *Homo* in Africa; Neandertals in the Middle East; the evolution of hominin skull form and function; and concepts of biological systematics as applied to paleoanthropological problems. Since 1990, he has co-directed or directed research at the Hadar hominin site in the Afar region of Ethiopia. Kimbel was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2005.



**Philip Rightmire**, a Professor and Research Associate in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, is a biological anthropologist with research interests in skeletal biology, morphometrics, paleoanthropology, and human evolution. He has carried out extensive studies of fossil remains from localities in Africa, Europe, and Asia and is particularly concerned with interpreting the Plio-Pleistocene record of genus *Homo*. His current projects center on Middle Pleistocene hominins, the evolutionary significance of the assemblage from Dmanisi (Georgian Caucasus), the paleobiology of *Homo erectus*, and the identification of likely antecedents to this species in Africa.



**Daniel Lieberman** is the Edwin M. Lerner II Professor of Biological Science and Chair of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. His research is on how and why the human body is the way it is, with particular foci on the origins of bipedalism, how humans became such superlative endurance runners, and the evolution of the highly unusual human head. He teaches a variety of courses on human evolution, anatomy, and physiology. He has published more than 100 peer-review papers and his two most recent books are *The Evolution of the Human Head* (Harvard University Press, 2011), and *The Story of the Human Body* (Pantheon Press, 2013).



**Pascal Gagneux** is an Associate Professor of Pathology at UC San Diego with a strong interest in the evolutionary mechanisms responsible for generating and maintaining primate molecular diversity. The Gagneux laboratory studies how this diversity affects susceptibility to infection and reproductive compatibility by comparing cell surface molecules, glycans (sugar chains), in closely related primates species. Past pathogen regimes have shaped these molecules in different species and sexual selection (via cryptic female choice) might have contributed to reproductive incompatibility and speciation due to female immune rejection of sperm or fetal cells decorated with incompatible glycans.



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**Steven Churchill** is a Professor and Past Chair of the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology at Duke University. He is also an Honorary Reader in the Evolutionary Studies Institute and Centre for Excellence in Palaeosciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Churchill received a B.S. from Virginia Tech and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico before joining the faculty at Duke in 1995. He is a paleontologist who studies the fossil record of human evolution, especially that of early members of our genus (*Homo*) that lived between about two million to ten thousand years ago.



**Carol Ward** earned her B.S. in anthropology and zoology from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. in functional anatomy and evolution at Johns Hopkins University. She joined the University of Missouri in 1991 where she is now Professor and Director of Anatomical Sciences in the Integrative Anatomy group in the School of Medicine. Dr. Ward has studied the evolution of Miocene hominoids as well as Pliocene and Pleistocene hominins. She has done paleontological fieldwork in Kenya and Hungary and is Co-Director of the West Turkana Paleo Project. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has won several teaching awards.



**Leslie Aiello** is the President of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Her academic interests focus on the evolution of human adaptation, including energetics, life history and the evolution of the brain and cognition. She received her B.A. and M.A. in anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Ph.D. in human evolution from the University of London. Aiello spent the majority of her 30-year academic career at University College London. In addition to her academic interests, she has been active with the media in the public dissemination of science and human evolution, in particular.



**Herman Pontzer** is a Professor of Anthropology at Hunter College and the City University of New York, and he investigates the evolution of humans and the other apes. Through laboratory and field studies, Dr. Pontzer's work seeks to understand how our bodies evolved and how our evolutionary past shapes our lives today. These projects have taken him to archeological excavations in the Republic of Georgia for analyses of 1.8 million year old human fossils, Ugandan rainforests for observation of wild chimpanzees, and most recently to northern Tanzania for measurements of energy expenditure among Hadza hunter-gatherers.

### Upcoming CARTA Symposia

- April 29, 2016 **Ancient DNA and Human Evolution**
- October 14, 2016 **Implications of Anthropogeny for Medicine and Public Health**
- Winter 2017 **Awareness of Death and Personal Mortality: Implications for Anthropogeny**

For more information or to register: <https://carta.anthropogeny.org>